

## CHAPTER 781

(House Bill 2086)

## AN ACT concerning

Deaf Persons - ~~Toll-Free~~ Teletype Machines

FOR the purpose of requiring that teletype machines, or any other machine which allows communication with deaf or hearing impaired persons, shall be provided by the State, County, and Baltimore City Governments for emergency police, fire, and rescue services, ~~and providing that the telephone number for these services shall be toll-free.~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 78A - Public Works

Section 51A

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1975 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

## Article 78A - Public Works

## 51A.

(a) The Secretary of the Department of General Services shall, upon the joint recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the State Superintendent of Schools, provide teletype machines in central locations in agencies of State and local government and other public facilities as recommended for the use of deaf persons as provided for in the budget. THESE LOCATIONS SHALL INCLUDE SERVICE FOR EMERGENCY POLICE, FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES.

(b) These machines shall be connected electronically so as to provide a means of communication between deaf persons and the offices of major public and private facilities equipped with these machines within a toll-free telephone district.

~~(c) TELETYPE MACHINES, OR ANY OTHER MACHINE WHICH ALLOWS COMMUNICATION WITH DEAF OR HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS, SHALL BE PROVIDED BY STATE, COUNTY AND BALTIMORE CITY GOVERNMENTS FOR EMERGENCY POLICE, FIRE, AND RESCUE SERVICES. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THIS SERVICE SHALL BE TOLL FREE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1978.